

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN HONOR OF MR. LARRY BINGER
28TH NATIONAL VETERANS'
WHEELCHAIR GAMES ATHLETE

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 22, 2008

Mr. CASTLE. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to recognize Mr. Larry Binger for his service and dedication as a veteran and accomplished wheelchair athlete. Mr. Binger is a disabled veteran who has become an enthusiastic competitor and an inspiration to the people of Delaware. As he has for the past twenty one years, he will serve as Delaware's lone representative at the twenty eighth National Veterans' Wheelchair Games in Omaha, Nebraska starting July 25.

Beginning in 1981, the Veteran's Affairs department and Paralyzed Veterans of America began the National Veterans' Wheelchair Games. The Games host nearly six hundred athletes from forty six states with the help of hundreds of sponsors. These athletes range from survivors of World War II to those who served in Afghanistan and Iraq. More than twenty five percent of the athletes have been disabled for more than twenty five years. The Games allow participants to compete in various sporting events despite their physical challenges.

While serving in Vietnam, Mr. Binger injured his back working on his ship, the USS *Shangri La*. Following his injury, in order to stay active, Mr. Binger began competing in wheelchair marathons. He represents Delaware at the National Games in multiple events including javelin, discus, archery, bowling, trapshooting and various fishing events. Mr. Binger competes in the masters division of these events, with an excellent showing last year. In addition to his perseverance and rigorous training, Mr. Binger is passionately committed to serving other veterans. He has been a member of the Patriot Guard Riders for several years, considering it an honor to attend the funerals of fallen comrades. In competing as a disabled athlete, Mr. Binger strives to set an example that will give hope to both long-time and recently disabled veterans in the tri-state area. The highest commendations should be bestowed upon this devoted individual.

I acknowledge and thank Mr. Larry Binger for his exceptional service to the Navy, our country, and now the community of Delaware. Our veterans here are truly privileged to have such an excellent competitor represent them in the National Veterans' Wheelchair Games. I am confident that Mr. Binger will continue to serve Delaware with honor. I wish him the best of luck at the Games next week and with all of his endeavors henceforth.

IN HONOR OF MINNESOTA'S NEW
VFW STATE COMMANDER, STAN
KOWALSKI

HON. MICHELE BACHMANN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 22, 2008

Mrs. BACHMANN. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Minnesota's new VFW Commander, Stan Kowalski, who was officially installed last month at a ceremony in Moorhead, Minnesota. As the VFW has itself noted, Stan Kowalski may very well be the last state commander nationwide to emerge from that Greatest Generation, veterans of the Second World War.

Though he numbers in years 82, Stan Kowalski is a vibrant, active, energetic citizen. In fact, he's made no secret of the fact that he entertains the idea of running for National Commander of the VFW in the future.

Kowalski is a strong advocate for those who once and those who now wear the uniform. He has been a frequent visitor to Camp Ripley and the Air Force Reserves' 934th Airlift Wing to see our troops headed off overseas. He's organized VFW post dinners for families of deployed Marines. And, he's served on the VFW's national POW/MIA Council. In fact, he gave the eulogy when PFC Robert Cahow returned home from Germany to Clear Lake, Wisconsin, after 57 years missing.

Kowalski has shown a particularly great deal of compassion for those of his comrades who have fallen on hard times and are experiencing a time of need. He has noted that during his tenure as state commander, he will work closely with the Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans to help the estimated 700 homeless veterans across Minnesota. He calls those veterans a "Lost Brigade" and notes that his mission is "making sure they get found and get the help they need."

While his commitment to his fellow veterans runs strong and deep, he has also served his community in other ways. He was a longtime member of the School Board in Spring Lake Park District 16, a Little League coach, an Olympic torch carrier, and a 9/11 memorial organizer. Stan Kowalski, who many know from his 26-year career as a pro-wrestler with 19 major titles, has been a prolific fundraiser for efforts ranging from the Greater Twin Cities United Way to the ROTC to Save Our Sports for the University of Minnesota.

Madam Speaker, I join all of Minnesota in paying tribute to the great energy and good works of Commander Stan Kowalski.

TRIBUTE TO SHIRLEY RAMAEKER

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 22, 2008

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Shirley Ramaeker for her many

years of service at the Eagle Grove, Iowa, Fareway Economical Food Store.

For the past 20 years, Shirley has served the people of Eagle Grove as an outstanding and dedicated employee, offering reliable and friendly service. In fact, members of the community often wait in her line just to have their groceries checked out by her. Shirley's commitment to her job and her customers has earned her admiration, trust and friendship from her fellow co-workers. Great service goes a long way, and I am honored to see fellow Iowans like Shirley providing service second to none.

I know that my colleagues in the United States Congress join me in commending Shirley Ramaeker for her service to Eagle Grove and the Fareway Food Store. I consider it an honor to represent her in Congress, and I wish her the best in her future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO STAFF SERGEANT WILLIAM RYAN FRITSCHKE

HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 22, 2008

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Madam Speaker, I rise before you today to honor the life of a soldier who died honorably serving his country in Afghanistan as a part of Operation Enduring Freedom. Staff Sergeant William Ryan Fritsche made the ultimate sacrifice for our country and we honor him for his service.

Staff Sergeant Fritsche joined the U.S. Army under the delayed entry program at the age of 17, two weeks after the September 11, 2001 attacks. He was first stationed with the Old Guard, the 3rd United States Infantry Regiment, the Army's official ceremonial unit and Escort to the President, which is based in Arlington, Virginia. In January 2007, Staff Sergeant Fritsche left the Old Guard and joined the 1st Brigade, 91st Cavalry regiment, 173rd Airborne unit based out of Vence, Italy. With this new unit, he left in March for a 15 month deployment to Afghanistan.

In July of 2007 at the age of 23, Staff Sergeant Fritsche was killed in action while leading a dismounted patrol in Kamu, Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. He was awarded the Bronze Star, the Purple Heart, a NATO citation, an Afghanistan Campaign Ribbon and the Combat Infantry Badge.

I commend Staff Sergeant Fritsche for his commitment to our country and his courage to fight for freedom in an unsettled world. Without doubt, his bravery gives his mother, Mrs. Volitta Fritsche of Martinsville, Indiana, and his widow, Mrs. Brandi Nicole Fritsche of Maryland's 2nd Congressional District, great pride. In honor of Staff Sergeant Fritsche's commitment to preserving the freedom of our nation, friends and relatives have established an ongoing scholarship in his name, the SSG W. Ryan Fritsche Memorial Scholarship Fund.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you join with me today to honor the patriotism and dedication of

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

Staff Sergeant William Ryan Fritsche. His love of country and willingness to serve will forever reverberate in our memories. It gives me great pride to honor one of our nation's fallen heroes.

RECOGNIZING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INTEGRATION OF THE ARMED FORCES

SPEECH OF

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 14, 2008

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor and privilege to stand before you today in support of H. Con. Res. 297, a measure that recognizes the 60th anniversary of the integration of the United States Armed Services.

On July 26, 1948, President Harry S. Truman signed Executive Order 9981, declaring that all members of the military are equal regardless of race, color, religion, or national origin. These long-overdue words marked the beginning of the end of institutionalized discrimination in the U.S. Armed Services, and instilled into the military the democratic principle of equality.

Prior to this executive order, minority soldiers not only fought against our enemies, but also struggled against prejudice at home and in the military. In spite of these unjust circumstances, many segregated units were universally renowned for their courage and valor, such as the 54th Massachusetts Regiment during the American Civil War, the Harlem Hellfighters (369th Infantry Regiment) in World War I, and the Tuskegee Army and the 100th Battalion and the 442nd Combat Infantry group in World War II. We should never forget the sacrifices they made to preserve the ideals of freedom and democracy.

It has been 60 years since President Truman courageously and justly integrated the U.S. Armed Services. Our military was strong then, but it is stronger now, in no small part because all service men and women serve together as equals. Indeed, this year America may elect its first African-American Commander in Chief.

Indiana's First Congressional District enjoys a rich diversity that has helped produce some of the most capable units in the armed services. Servicemembers from Northwest Indiana have fought in integrated units during every military engagement since World War II. Right now, Indiana has the fourth-largest National Guard in the United States, with more troops deployed in Iraq than any other State in the union. I am extremely proud of the patriotic men and women from Indiana who have served and are serving in uniform, and thank them for their service to our country. The successes of Indiana's men and women in uniform of all races, colors, religions, and countries of origin, and across all generations, have been echoed throughout the Nation.

Mr. Speaker, at this time I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring the 60th anniversary of the integration of the United States Armed Services. Such integration has enriched our military with the same democratic equality that they have fought so valiantly to protect.

RECOGNIZING ARIZONA STATE ATHLETICS

HON. HARRY E. MITCHELL

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 22, 2008

Mr. MITCHELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Arizona State University Athletics Program, the top school in Sports Illustrated's SI.Com 2007–2008 collegiate athletic rankings. I am proud to have such a prestigious athletic and academic institution housed in my district!

This year, Sports Illustrated commissioned its own ranking system for top collegiate athletic programs because the magazine believed that the National Collegiate Athletic Association's (NCAA's) system for determining the top collegiate athletics program was too complicated. Based upon three qualifications—the number of national championships won in the 2007–2008 season, number of top 30 finishes in each sport, and the number of conference championships—ASU was awarded the top honor.

The Sun Devils pulled off this feat by claiming three NCAA national titles in Men's and Women's Indoor track and ASU Women's softball, four conference championships including women's softball, men's baseball, men's golf and men's track, and 12 top 30 finishes including a surprising top 20 finish in men's football. With three national titles, ASU led the NCAA in championships this season. In addition, ASU placed fourth in the Director's Cup standings, the official award given out by the NCAA for top collegiate athletic programs. This is the Sun Devils' highest ranking in school history!

As an alumnus of Arizona State, I am honored and excited to see my alma mater's athletic excellence honored on a national stage. I want to congratulate President Michael Crow, athletic director Lisa Love, all the coaches and staffs, and most of all, the student athletes who excel on the field and in the classroom.

Madam Speaker, please join me in celebrating the remarkable success of Sun Devil athletics. Go, Devils!

RECOGNIZING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF DAVIS COLLEGE

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 22, 2008

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker. I rise to recognize the sesquicentennial celebration of Davis College in Northwest Ohio. The Toledo, Ohio college has offered post-secondary business education to generations of students for 150 years and continues to grow.

Toledo Business College was established in 1858. It came into its own in 1881, when "Matthew H. Davis left his chairmanship in the mathematics department and his position as director of the business department at Albert College, Belleville, Ontario, to accept the management of Toledo Business College." Under his tutelage the school grew tenfold, from 35 students to 350.

The college's history recounts that under Davis' direction, four other schools were ab-

sorbed and the school was renamed Davis Business College. "The curriculum was gradually changed from Latin, German, Greek, calculus, and epistolary writing to banking, mercantile trades, shorthand, and typing.

"After Davis' death in 1904, his son, Thurber P. Davis, left the University of Michigan to take over the management of Davis Business College. Under the leadership of the younger Davis, electric typewriters were added, making the College one of the best equipped in the United States. Stenotype and data processing augmented the expanding curriculum.

"In 1948, when Thurber became ill, his daughter, Ruth L. Davis, became the third generation of the Davis family to lead the school. In 1953, Davis Business College was among the first to be accredited by the Accrediting Commission for Business Schools. In 1964, it met commission requirements for a junior college of business. Office management, payroll accounting, and the Automation Institute were added to meet the growing needs of business and technology.

"In 1983, John Lambert became President of Davis College. President Lambert expanded the Davis curriculum to include allied health, aviation, computer, and graphic design programs, which doubled the College's enrollment. In 1986, Davis met the requirements for accreditation by the American Association of Medical Assistants. In 1991, Davis College was granted accreditation by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association.

"In 1993, Diane Brunner became the fifth President of Davis College. At the time of her appointment, she was the youngest female college president in Ohio. In 2002, Davis College hosted its first student conference, bringing nationally renowned authors to the institution. As was true of all past Davis College leadership, President Brunner is dedicated to the promotion of higher educational standards and continuing the College's service to the community."

This family owned century business in Toledo, Ohio remains a standard of business education in our region, all the while expanding into other fields of study. In the present day, the college was named as one of the 2008 Ohio's best employers by the Ohio Chamber of Commerce. This year as well, Davis College earned the Better Business Bureau's Torch Award for marketplace ethics. As Davis College grows into its third century in the business of educating people, it remains true to its founders' dedication to preparing its students for success while adhering to the highest standards and latest technologies in the fields of study. Standing on the shoulders of those who built its foundation, Davis College honors the vision of its past leaders while looking forward to a bright future.

TRIBUTE TO IOWA SELECT FARMS

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 22, 2008

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Iowa Select Farms in Iowa Falls, Iowa for earning the "Above and Beyond" award from the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) organization, for

supporting its employees who are in the National Guard or Army Reserve.

The "Above and Beyond" award received by Iowa Select Farms was preceded by a "My Boss is a Patriot" certificate in 2005, which was awarded after an Iowa National Guard employee nominated the farm for providing special consideration and benefits during his deployment. Iowa Select Farms' corporate policy obliges the company to pay a year's salary while a soldier employee is deployed, thereby removing considerable stress and uncertainty in how a soldier can provide for his or her family while serving abroad. By providing top notch support to its military employees, Iowa Select Farms shows the respect and honor deserved by America's troops, who continue to sacrifice for our nation.

I offer my utmost congratulations and thanks to Iowa Select Farms for playing such an active role in supporting our troops. It is an honor to represent Jeff Hansen, President and CEO, and all the employees of the Iowa Select Farms in the United States Congress, and I wish them success in their future endeavors.

DRILL RESPONSIBLY IN LEASED LANDS ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 17, 2008

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the DRILL Act, H.R. 6515. We continue to hear from my colleagues on the other side of the aisle that opening up more Federal lands to oil and gas drilling will be the magic bullet that will solve our energy crisis. They continue to try to mislead the American people into believing that drilling on the Outer Continental Shelf, OCS, and the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge will bring instantaneous relief to American families desperately seeking help with painful gas prices. There is no easy solution to this crisis, and it is widely accepted that drilling in OCS would save only pennies per gallon, more than a decade down the road. It is unseemly that my colleagues would continue to take advantage of the suffering of Americans to promote their own political aims.

Currently 81 percent of the oil and gas deposits known in our Nation's Federal lands is available to be leased for drilling. Sixty-eight million acres, approximately 75 percent, of the lands open for drilling both onshore and offshore currently are leased by oil companies who are not using them for production. It is estimated that these leased but unused lands could produce an additional 4.8 million barrels of oil and 44.7 billion cubic feet of natural gas each day, nearly doubling U.S. oil production and cutting oil imports by a third. This includes the 20 million acres with an estimated 10.6 billion barrels of oil in the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska, NPR-A, currently available for drilling but most of which is lying unused.

The DRILL act would require oil companies to certify to the Department of the Interior that they actively are developing on the lands that they have already leased. If these oil companies are not producing on these lands, they either would have to relinquish these leases or start producing on them before they could apply to lease additional lands. It would en-

courage expedited oil production by requiring the Secretary of Interior to offer at least one lease sale annually in NPR-A. H.R. 6515 would require the Secretary of Transportation to extend the Alaskan oil and gas pipeline to NPR-A, and require the President to make improvements to the existing oil and gas pipeline so that we can export oil more expeditiously. Finally, the DRILL Act would prevent the export of Alaskan oil and gas so that this supply is available for American consumers.

This is common sense legislation, and I urge my colleagues who keep shouting "drill, drill, drill" to support it. We do not need to open up more lands to oil and gas drilling when they are not utilizing the leases and resources they already have.

This is only a short term solution to America's energy needs. Currently we produce 3 percent of the world's oil and consume 25 percent. Unless we find a way to dramatically reduce our consumption we will never be able to drill our way to energy independence. I look forward to working with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to develop a long term solution to this crisis.

HONORING THE INTERNATIONAL MODEL A FORD

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 22, 2008

Mr. ISRAEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the contribution of the International Model A Ford to the history of U.S. transportation. This is a significant week for Model A owners across the country. I rise to specifically applaud the Model A Ford Club of Long Island, New York as they celebrate Model A Ford Day on Saturday, July 26th in my Congressional District.

This year's annual remembrance is momentous for owners as it falls on the 80th anniversary of the introduction of the first 1928 Model A Ford. This weekend's celebration of their car's 80th birthday will include thousands of Model A Ford enthusiasts, restorers and preservers taking these vehicles out on American roadways nationwide and events with other Model A enthusiasts.

Notably, there were only 5 million Model A Fords produced between 1928 and 1931. I am pleased to say that the dedication of Model A Ford owners has enabled 250,000 of these historic vehicles to be preserved. Remarkably, most of these vehicles are driven regularly to the enjoyment of many as I have seen in my Congressional District.

The Model A Ford was a trailblazer of its time. It was the first Ford to use the standard set of driver controls, with conventional clutch and brake pedals, throttle and gearshift. The Model A's fuel tank was located in the cowl and had an optic fuel gauge and the fuel was distributed to the carburetor by gravity. Also, the Model A was the first car to have safety glass in the windshield.

Again, thank you to Model A Ford owners for preserving a flagship American automobile and to the Model A Ford Club of Long Island for keeping this historic tradition active on Long Island.

HONORING VOLKER EISELE OF
NAPA, CALIFORNIA

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 22, 2008

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Volker Eisele, who is being honored as the Napa County Farm Bureau's 2008 Agriculturalist of the Year.

I have had the honor for the past 10 years to represent in the U.S. House of Representatives the Napa Valley, an area known throughout the world for its immense beauty, environmental consciousness and bountiful agriculture. Were it not for the tireless efforts of Mr. Eisele, Napa Valley as we know it today would simply not exist.

Since arriving in the Napa Valley, Volker Eisele has dedicated his life to protecting its rich agricultural tradition. The timeline of his community involvement reads like the history of preservation in Napa. In 1974, he joined Citizens' Council for Napa Tomorrow, the group that passed Napa County's 1 percent growth measure, Measure A, in 1980. In 1977, he joined the board of what is now Greenbelt Alliance, which has become one of the preeminent Smart Growth organizations in the San Francisco Bay Area. He has also served on the boards of directors for the Napa County Farm Bureau and the Napa Valley Grapegrowers. During his term as President of the Farm Bureau, he led the effort to create the 160 acre minimum for agricultural, watershed and open space land.

From 1989 through 1990, in what was perhaps his crowning achievement, he led the campaign to pass Measure J, Napa County's revolutionary land protection measure. Today, he is organizing the campaign to renew Measure J, which will protect Napa Valley agriculture for fifty years.

Mr. Eisele has been a preeminent activist in Napa Valley for more than thirty years, but he has also led by example. He planted the first entirely organic vineyard in Napa in 1975, and practiced sustainable farming long before it became widely accepted. He has maintained an enduring reverence for the land that serves us all so well, respecting animal habitat and riparian corridors. As a result, his Volker Eisele Family Estate wines reflect the best that Napa has to offer.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, it is my distinct pleasure to recognize Volker Eisele for his many years of leadership. The Napa Valley and the entire environmental movement owe him an enormous debt of gratitude.

HONORING ARMY SPECIALIST STEVEN CHRISTOFFERSON

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 22, 2008

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Madam Speaker, in April, over 350 friends, family members, and others in the community inspired by the life of Army Specialist Steven Christofferson gathered at the Cudahy High School Field House in my district to pay their respects to

this remarkable young man whose life was cut tragically short in Iraq last month.

Today, I want to take to the floor to share with my colleagues and with the American people this young man's story and his untimely sacrifice.

So, who was this young man? He was a proud member of Delta Co., 1st Battalion, 327th Infantry, 101st Airborne Division, Mad Dog 5th Platoon stationed at Fort Campbell, Ky. His awards and decorations include: National Defense Service Medal; Global War on Terrorism Service Medal; Army Service Ribbon; and Weapons Qualification, M4, expert. At his memorial service, Wisconsin Army National Guard BG Mark Anderson presented the family four medals, including a Bronze Star and a Purple Heart.

He was devoted to family and a caring son to his mother, Michell, herself having served in the Air Force. According to Michell Christofferson, he was an older brother who loved his siblings and earned their respect. And, in her words, he deserved it because "he was kind and he was thoughtful, and he was a caring young man."

According to his mother, in e-mail exchanges with her, he said he would be her angel. She praised him for being a best friend to his younger brothers—Dakota (17) and Dillon (11)—as well as defending them when needed or taking action to keep them on the straight and narrow if called to do so. He was caring, positive and respectful, a protector of his family.

He grew up too fast and was taken too soon.

He was also a valuable member of a community. Christofferson was a 2006 graduate of Cudahy High School, where he was a member of the football, wrestling and track teams. He will be sorely missed. His Cudahy High School Principal, Christopher Haeger, remembered encountering Steven the day he enlisted in the Army. "He was very, very excited," Haeger said. "I know it was an important part of his life." Or as his brother Dakota put it, "He felt like he had to do something, go help people."

He deployed to Iraq in September. But he kept in close touch with his family. According to media reports, he spoke with his mother and brother just hours before his death.

I can find no words more appropriate than those of Steven's own mother to sum up my brief remarks on this remarkable life. At his memorial service earlier this year, his mother closed—expressing the sentiments of a community and a grateful Nation—with these words: "Fly with the angels, my baby boy. We miss you lots and love you more."

The Bible says we should give honor to those whom honor are due and respect to those whom respect is due. Today, I rise to honor this young man and to ask that the balance of my time be reserved for a moment of silence as a mark of tribute to Specialist Steven Christofferson and of support for his family.

TRIBUTE TO GENERAL RICHARD CODY ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE U.S. ARMY

HON. JOHN P. MURTHA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 22, 2008

Mr. MURTHA. Madam Speaker, on August 4 of this year, the name of one of the great military leaders of our time will pass on to the retirement rolls. I am speaking of my good friend, GEN Richard Cody, the 31st vice chief of staff of the United States Army.

On August 4 our Armed Forces will lose one of its greatest warriors. GEN Dick Cody has commanded American soldiers for 20 of his 36 years of service. In 1991, then Lieutenant Colonel Cody personally led Task Force Normandy, the joint aviation task force that fired the opening salvos of the gulf war, and, as GEN H. Norman Schwarzkopf recounted, "plucked out the eyes" of Saddam Hussein's air defenses. Cody went on to command the First Cavalry Division's Aviation Brigade; the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment; the fabled 101st Airborne Division "Screaming Eagles"; as well as commanding in our Nation's most elite special operations unit.

On August 4 our Armed Forces will lose a gifted strategic leader. With 1.3 million men and women serving around the globe, there are few organizations in the world as large and complex as the United States Army. For 6 years, spanning the tenures of 3 Army Chiefs of Staff, 4 Secretaries of the Army, and 3 Chairmen of the Joints Chiefs of Staff, Dick Cody has provided stalwart leadership to our Army. He has overseen the day-to-day details of a plethora of daunting tasks. He oversaw the Army's transformation from a Cold War-era, division-based force, to a modular, brigade-centric force. He revitalized and modernized the Army's aviation forces. He supervised the transformation of the reserve component from a strategic reserve to a part of the operational Army. He is the architect of the Army's growth and restationing plans, which will eventually relocate over one-third of the Army. He has also completely revitalized the outpatient care systems for our wounded warriors and their families.

On August 4 our Armed Forces will lose one of its "straightest shooters." We in Congress rely on senior uniformed leaders to give us apolitical, straight forward assessments based on their years of military experience. No one shoots straighter with the Congress and the American people than Dick Cody. Going back to his first testimony before the Congress in 1999, when he warned the Nation to "beware of a 14 division mission with a 12 division Army," he has never flinched from hard questions, and he never sugar coats the truth.

On August 4 the head of a wonderful Army family will retire, a man who is just as proud to be known as "Vicki's husband" and "Tyler and Clint's Dad" as he is proud of the stars on this shoulders. The Cody boys, with six combat tours between them, will continue to serve. Vicki Cody will never stop advocating for soldiers and their families, and Dick Cody's own personal "Rendezvous with Destiny" will continue.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge a 36 year career of heroic and selfless service, one that reflects all that is good and right about our Nation and her Armed Forces. On behalf of the United States Congress, we say "thank you" to a man and a family who place the well-being of the American soldier ahead of their own ambitions and dreams. God Bless Dick and Vicki Cody, their sons Tyler and Clint, and God Bless the American soldier who they love so much.

HONORING NEWLY INDUCTED COLLEGE FOOTBALL HALL OF FAME COACH, COACH W.C. GORDON

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 22, 2008

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, it gives me immense pleasure to recognize the life and accomplishments of one of America's most prolific icons in college football history, Coach William "W.C." Gordon.

Coach Gordon's career in college football began at Tennessee State University, TSU, where he played wide receiver and earned All-Mid Western Conference honors. He was also a 4-year baseball letterman at first base and team captain for the TSU Tigers. After graduating from Tennessee State University in 1952, he went on to serve in the U.S. Army from 1953 to 1955.

After serving in the military, Gordon returned to sports as athletic director and coach for Eva Gordon High School, in Magnolia, MS. He also served at Temple High School, in Vicksburg, MS, in 1966, where he coached his team to the High School Football Negro Big 8 Conference state championship with an 11-0 record in 1966.

From 1967 to 1994, Coach Gordon led and mentored at Jackson State University in a multitude of coaching capacities. Though most known for football, Coach Gordon served as head baseball coach from 1971 to 1972, leading the Tigers to the Southwestern Athletic Conference, SWAC, baseball title in 1972.

As interim and head football coach, Gordon became one of the most winning coaches in the history of college football with 28 consecutive league victories and a career record of 119-47-5. Gordon coached 65 JSU players into the National Football League. Gordon was inducted into the SWAC Hall of Fame in 1994.

Gordon coached the Tigers to eight SWAC Championships and was awarded SWAC Coach of the Year honors six times. He has been inducted into Mississippi Conferences Hall of Fame & Museum in 1977 and most recently was enshrined in the National Football Foundation's College Football Hall of Fame in South Bend, IN on July 18-19.

Again, it gives me great pleasure to recognize and honor one of America's finest legendary football icons and true patriots of the game, Coach W.C. Gordon. His legacy not only left a mark on Black college football but also on college football at-large.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 22, 2008

Ms. LEE. Madam Speaker, on July 16, 2008, by voice vote the House passed H.R. 5959, the Intelligence Authorization Act for 2009. I did not support this legislation and would have voted against passage had a roll-call vote been held.

THE 34TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
TURKISH INVASION OF CYPRUS**HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 22, 2008

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Speaker, today we commemorate the 34th anniversary of the Turkish invasion of Cyprus. Today we also honor the memory and sacrifice of the nearly 200,000 Greek Cypriots who were forcibly removed from their homes, the 5,000 Cypriots who were killed during the invasion and the nearly 1,500 Greek Cypriots who remain missing to this day.

Cyprus and the U.S. share a deep and abiding commitment to upholding the ideals of freedom, human rights, and the international rule of law. As that commitment is tested, we must draw on our common values and mutual democratic vision to promote stability, prosperity and peace.

The United States has a moral and ethical obligation to stand with Cypriots to reunify their island and end the military occupation. We will continue to work together with the people of Cyprus toward their goal to reunify the island as a bicomunal and bi-zonal federation with a single sovereignty, single international personality and single citizenship with respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all Cypriots.

By working together and building on our common values and interests, the people of Cyprus and the United States can achieve a united island that fulfills the promise of peace and democracy for which a generation of Cypriots have paid so dearly.

TRIBUTE TO ROBERT C. LOBDELL

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 22, 2008

Ms. ESHOO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Robert C. Lobdell of Menlo Park, California, who passed away on Monday, July 7, 2008 at the age of 82. He leaves his beloved wife Nancy to whom he was married for almost 56 years; his four children, Jim, John, Terri and William; and 11 grandchildren.

Born in Mankato, Minnesota in 1926, Robert Lobdell moved to Manhattan Beach with his family in 1942. During World War II he served in the Army Air Forces and later attended Stanford University where he earned a law degree in 1950. He married Nancy Lower in

1952 and they lived in Long Beach, California for more than 30 years before moving to Menlo Park in 2004.

After receiving his law degree, Mr. Lobdell went on to work for the Los Angeles Times and the Times Mirror, the newspaper's former parent company, from 1965 to 1986. During his time there, Mr. Lobdell served as vice president and general counsel, successfully argued numerous major media cases, and developed a reputation as one of the Nation's leading First Amendment attorneys. Among his many important media cases, Mr. Lobdell successfully argued that a newspaper had the right to control the content of advertisements it publishes and won a landmark media case in 1982 brought by the Federal Trade Commission, which tried to stop the practice of media companies giving discounts to frequent advertisers. He also worked to free Times reporter Bill Farr in 1973 after he was jailed for refusing to reveal his source to a judge in the Charles Manson murder case.

Mr. Lobdell received numerous accolades from his peers and earned their respect, admiration and affection. He was known as a hard-working, kind colleague, and a fine lawyer who advocated hard-hitting journalism and fiercely tackled legal challenges to protect and support the editors and journalists at the Times.

Mr. Lobdell was a devoted husband and father and when he wasn't working, he spent time with his wife and children. An active member of the community, he served on the boards of numerous organizations. He had a love of the arts and at age 60, he became part of the student body at Cal State Long Beach, taking classes including Italian, literature and history, as well as a study abroad program. His family remembers his great enthusiasm for life which lasted until the end.

Madam Speaker, I ask the entire House of Representatives to join me in honoring the life of Robert C. Lobdell and in extending my deepest sympathies to his entire family during this difficult time. As an exceptional lawyer and free speech advocate, a loving husband, father and grandfather, he has left lasting legacies which have made our country stronger and better.

HONORING THE FEDERAL DRUG
AGENTS FOUNDATION**HON. STEVE ISRAEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 22, 2008

Mr. ISRAEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Federal Drug Agents Foundation and its work to support and recognize federal agents, task force members and their families.

The Federal Drug Agents Foundation is a Long Island-based, not-for-profit organization that provides many services to the men and women who risk their lives to make this country safer and drug-free. The organization also provides these services to the family members of these men and women, as well.

The Foundation serves as an anchor of support for the American law enforcement community. It provides bereavement support and financial assistance for families of agents and task force members who die in the line of duty, including individual grants. The Founda-

tion also provides support to agents and task force members who become injured in the line of duty.

When agents and task force members experience grave financial loss or severe trauma or encounter situations for which there is no other source of assistance available, the Foundation steps in to provide relief. This support is essential for those agents who put their lives on the line to keep Long Island safe.

The Foundation has also established a scholarship fund for agents and task force members who wish to pursue degrees in criminal justice, political science, law and related areas. This helps ensure our law enforcement community can benefit from the knowledge and experience of these hard-working, dedicated men and women. Funds like this make it possible to encourage future generations of committed agents in the criminal justice sector.

The Federal Drug Agents Foundation also makes charitable grants to Federal, State and local law enforcement related agencies. Among the organizations supported by the Foundation are the Drug Enforcement Administration, DEA, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, ICE, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, ATF, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, FBI, and various State and local law enforcement agencies and support groups.

I am honored to recognize the generosity and compassion of the Federal Drug Agents Foundation for the services it provides on Long Island. I applaud the Federal Drug Agents Foundation for their steadfast support and dedication.

TRIBUTE TO LARRY REIS

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 22, 2008

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Larry Reis for reaching an important milestone as a public servant to the people of Winneshiek County, Iowa.

For the past 25 years, Larry has served on the Winneshiek County Conservation Board (WCCB). Before working on the County Conservation Board, he grew up in Lime Springs, Iowa, where he followed in the footsteps of his parents and grandparents by enjoying his time with nature and becoming a passionate outdoorsman. Larry's first job was a campground manager in Little Sioux, Iowa.

In 1983, Larry became the WCCB naturalist and maintenance technician. Ten years later, another staff person was hired, which allowed Larry to primarily work as the county naturalist. In this past year, WCCB again hired another staff person, and Larry began spending part of his time working as the natural resource manager as well.

I know that my colleagues in the United States Congress join me in commending Larry Reis for his service to Winneshiek County. I consider it an honor to represent him in the United States Congress and I wish him the best in his future work with the Conservation Board.

RECOGNIZING THE 34TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INVASION OF CYPRUS AND COMMENDING EFFORTS TO REACH A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT LEADING TO THE REUNIFICATION OF CYPRUS

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 22, 2008

Mr. GALLEGLY. Madam Speaker, this past weekend marked the 34th anniversary of the invasion of Cyprus by Turkish forces. During the war, approximately 5,000 Cypriots were killed and close to 200,000 Greek Cypriots were forcibly removed from their homes. This anniversary also marks another year in which Cyprus is divided between north and south and between the Turkish Cypriot and Greek Cypriot communities.

However, despite 34 years of division in Cyprus, I am more optimistic today about reaching a just and lasting settlement than I have been in many years. In February of this year, the Greek Cypriots elected a new president, Demetrius Christofias. Immediately following his election, President Christofias followed through on his commitment to make the solution of the Cyprus problem his top priority.

President Christofias found a willing partner in Turkish Cypriot leader Mehmet Talat. The leaders of the two main Cypriot communities met on March 21 for the purpose of trying to implement the provisions of the U.N.-brokered July 8, 2006 agreement. This agreement, which sets forth a framework for negotiations with the objective of trying to achieve the unification of Cyprus based on a bizonal, bi-communal federation and political equality, as set out in the relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions. The March 21 meeting also established a number of Working Groups and Technical Committees, as described in the July 8 agreement, in order to prepare the ground for full-fledged negotiations leading to a comprehensive and durable settlement.

The two leaders have already met on three occasions and will meet again on July 25 when they will review the progress of the Working Groups and Technical Committees. It is my hope that both leaders can agree to move forward and begin full-fledged negotiations.

The House of Representatives has already voiced its strong support for comprehensive settlement of the Cyprus issue. On October 9, 2007, the House on a voice vote passed House Resolution 405, which expressed its support for the immediate implementation of the July 8, 2006 agreement as the way forward to prepare for new comprehensive negotiations leading to the reunification of Cyprus within a bi-zonal, bi-communal federation. In addition, the resolution called upon the United States Government to fully support the immediate implementation this agreement in its entirety.

I believe the time is right for a permanent settlement in Cyprus. We have two leaders—President Christofias and Turkish Cypriot Leader Talat—who are ready and willing to reach an agreement. I also believe that the people of Cyprus, whether Greek Cypriot, Turkish Cypriot or members of the other ethnic groups on the island, recognize that a settlement leading to a reunified Cyprus will help

lead the way to a future of peace and prosperity.

LEADING MELANOMA RESEARCHERS ESTABLISH LINK BETWEEN UV EXPOSURE AND SKIN CANCER

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 22, 2008

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, I want to bring to my colleagues' attention a powerful statement from more than 500 of the world's leading skin cancer researchers on the harmful effects of over-exposure to ultraviolet radiation.

The petition was prompted by a national media campaign initiated by the indoor tanning industry, which seeks to dispel the link between melanoma, the most serious form of skin cancer, and UV exposure from natural or artificial sources (such as tanning beds).

Backed by clear, evidence-based data demonstrating the harmful effects of UV radiation, nearly 500 of the world's premier melanoma researchers expressed their concern by signing a petition affirming the role of UV exposure in increasing one's risk for skin cancer. Please find below the official language of the statement signed by nearly 500 researchers:

MELANOMA RESEARCH FOUNDATION AND SOCIETY FOR MELANOMA RESEARCH'S UV EXPOSURE & TANNING JOINT STATEMENT

There are clear, evidence-based data demonstrating harmful effects of UVA and UVB radiation, including carcinogenic/mutagenic effects on DNA. Purposeful exposure to UV rays increases the risk for skin cancer, including multiple types which may be lethal. Use of indoor tanning (outside of medical practice) represents one of the most striking examples of an avoidable cause of lethal cancer in man. We deplore any efforts to distort scientific research for financial gain, and urge regulatory agencies to crackdown on this practice because the lives of so many people, including young people, are at stake.

The petition was prompted specifically by two ads the Indoor Tanning Association (ITA) ran earlier this year. The ads not only distort scientific research, but ignore the clear, evidence-based data demonstrating harmful effects of UVA and UVB radiation.

I am attaching a press release issued by the Society for Melanoma Research and the Melanoma Research Foundation accompanying the public release of the petition.

RESEARCHERS TAKE HARD LINE AGAINST UV EXPOSURE—HUNDREDS AFFIRM HARMFUL EFFECTS OF ULTRAVIOLET RAYS, DISCOURAGE INTENTIONAL TANNING

WASHINGTON, DC.—Researchers have expressed concern over a new campaign initiated by the tanning industry, which seeks to dispel the link between melanoma, the most serious form of skin cancer, and UV exposure from natural or artificial sources (such as tanning beds). In response, nearly 500 of the foremost experts on melanoma signed a statement affirming the existence of evidence-based data demonstrating the harmful effects of UVA and UVB radiation. The statement, which was initiated at the 5th Melanoma Research Congress in Sapporo, Japan on May 7–12, not only states that UV rays increase one's risk for skin cancer, including melanoma, but also maintains that the use

of indoor tanning (outside of medical practice) represents an example of an avoidable cause of lethal cancer.

Studies show that UV light is a carcinogen (i.e. causes cancer). This occurs when skin cells are damaged after UV exposure (either from the sun or a tanning bed). The same DNA damage that triggers tanning also appears capable of causing cancerous mutations in skin cells. If those mutations are not completely repaired—as frequently occurs—skin cancers may result. Additional data demonstrates that indoor tanning devices emit UV radiation that is similar to, and sometimes more powerful than, that emitted by the sun. In fact, a systematic review of worldwide data, published in the March 2007 issue of the International Journal of Cancer, found a prominent, consistent increase—75 percent—in risk for melanoma in people who begin using tanning beds in their teens or twenties. Additionally, the review also showed that people across all age groups who have ever used tanning beds face a 15 percent higher risk of developing melanoma than those who have not. Even more dramatic increases were seen in certain non-melanoma forms of skin cancer, such as squamous cell carcinoma, a tumor that only on occasion spreads from the skin and may then be lethal.

Many scientists also point out that vitamin D, although produced in the skin, can easily be obtained by non-UV related means, such as dietary supplements. These dietary supplements would not carry the risk of cancer associated with UV radiation, in cases where increased vitamin D levels are deemed beneficial.

The Melanoma Research Foundation's (MRF) Scientific Advisory Committee stated, "The petition was developed to reinforce that the scientific community continues to stand behind strong data supporting the connection between skin cancer and UV-exposure. As physicians and scientists, we are concerned that this campaign may confuse the public, putting them at an increased risk for a disease that is too often lethal."

Melanoma is one of the fastest growing cancers in the U.S. and can strike people of all ages, all races and both sexes. In fact, one in 50 people have a lifetime risk of developing melanoma. Further, approximately 65 percent of all melanomas are attributed to UV exposure resulting from natural and artificial sources.

A wealth of information exists about how to reduce the risk of developing melanoma and other skin cancers, yet both MRF and SMR advise that the most important measure the public can take is to avoid intentional sunbathing and indoor tanning devices. For those who want to learn safe ways to access to vitamin D and look "tan," or for more information about melanoma and UV exposure, please visit www.melanoma.org or www.societymelanomaresearch.org.

ABOUT MELANOMA

Melanoma, the most serious type of skin cancer, is one of the fastest growing cancers in the U.S., and can strike people of all ages, all races and both sexes. One in 50 people have a lifetime risk of developing melanoma. In fact, in 2008, more than 62,000 Americans are expected to be diagnosed with invasive melanoma, resulting in an estimated 8,400 deaths. Melanoma is the most common form of cancer for young adults 25- to 29-years-old and the second most common cancer in adolescents and young adults 15- to 29-years-old. Nationally, one person dies of melanoma nearly every hour—and this number is rising.

ABOUT THE MELANOMA RESEARCH FOUNDATION

The Melanoma Research Foundation (MRF) is the largest private, national organization devoted to melanoma in the United

States. The Foundation is committed to the support of medical research in finding effective treatments and eventually a cure for melanoma. The Foundation also educates patients and physicians about prevention, diagnosis and treatment of melanoma, while acting as an advocate for the melanoma community to raise awareness of this disease and the need for a cure. The MRF Web site is the premiere source for melanoma information seekers. More information is available at www.melanoma.org.

ABOUT THE SOCIETY FOR MELANOMA RESEARCH

The Society for Melanoma Research (SMR) is an all-volunteer group of scientists working to find the mechanisms responsible for melanoma and, consequently, new therapies for this cancer. SMR contributes to advances in melanoma research by bringing together researchers to unite the scientific community and hasten the discovery of preventative and curative therapies. More information is available at www.societymelanomaresearch.org.

CELEBRATE PEACE EFFORTS ON CYPRUS WITH PROGRESS, NOT PARADES

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 22, 2008

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, Turkish Cypriots in the northern region of Cyprus mark every July 20th as the anniversary of Turkey's military intervention in that country in 1974. In fact, as part of the "Peace and Freedom Day" celebration this year, the Turkish Naval Frigate "Gelibolu" reportedly anchored off the northern region of Cyprus and the "Turkish Stars"—Turkey's military jet acrobatics team—performed in the skies over northern Cyprus.

For over three decades, significant international efforts have been undertaken to peacefully reunify the island nation of Cyprus. The new Cypriot government is currently working hard to engage with the leadership of the Turkish Cypriots and find a way to end the division of Cyprus, once and for all. Nevertheless, a date for new reunification talks has yet to be set, barricades still stand across the island, and the government of Turkey continues to withhold its public support for the talks and has yet to remove its military presence on Cyprus.

Madam Speaker, these displays this past weekend by the Turkish military are unproductive, coming, as they do, at a time when the status of Cyprus remains in limbo. Cyprus cannot remain a divided island with a divided people.

Congress last year adopted House Resolution 405, a measure I was proud to cosponsor, which emphasized that the reunification of Cyprus should be based on a bi-communal, bi-zonal federation. Other responsible nations have also stressed that such a reunification should include a single sovereignty and a single citizenship, with the independence and territorial integrity of Cyprus safeguarded. It is commendable that some steps have recently been taken towards establishment of such a solution.

On May 23rd, the President of Cyprus and a designated representative for the Turkish Cypriot community—issued a joint statement

in which they reaffirmed their commitment to a bi-zonal, bi-communal federation. Both sides also recently agreed to reopen a crossing point at Ledra Street in Nicosia, a key thoroughfare through that divided capital that has been closed for over 40 years. So there is some movement, but much remains to be done. There must be a solution that will end the occupation, reunite the island, and restore and safeguard the human rights and fundamental freedoms of the Cypriot people as a whole.

I suggest that a more fitting celebration this year of the so-called "Peace and Freedom Day" that I mentioned at the start of my remarks would consist of an announcement of the resumption comprehensive talks on reunification and a public expression of support for those negotiations. At some point soon, the final parade of Turkish troops should be their permanent departure from the island of Cyprus and the removal of all Turkish military forces there.

TRIBUTE TO SHARON ALBAN

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 22, 2008

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Sharon Alban, co-publisher of the Ogden Reporter, for earning the Distinguished Service Award at the annual Iowa Newspaper Association's convention.

The Distinguished Service Award is the most prestigious honor given by the Iowa Newspaper Association, and former recipients of the award select the winner. Excellence runs in Sharon's household as her husband Gary won the award in 2005. In addition to Sharon's award, the Ogden Reporter was awarded three press awards in the Iowa Newspaper Foundation's annual Better Newspaper Contests.

In 1966, Gary and Sharon bought the Ogden Reporter. Sharon began on the streets selling ads. She found a niche in sales in addition to her day-to-day work with the newspaper. In addition to Sharon's diligent work with the newspaper, she is very active in her church and is involved in many community activities and events.

I know that my colleagues in the United States Congress join me in commending Sharon Alban for her leadership and dedication to representing Iowa in the Ogden Reporter. I consider it an honor to represent Sharon and her husband Gary in Congress, and I wish them the best in their future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO POCAHONTAS REGULAR BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 22, 2008

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Pocahontas Regular Baptist Church of Pocahontas, Iowa, on celebrating their 50th anniversary as a congregation.

Beginning in 1955, a group of Baptists began meeting together in Rolfe, Iowa where

study classes and evangelical meetings were held in preparation for a new church community in Pocahontas. In January 1958, the Pocahontas Regular Baptist Church was organized. Later that year it was officially received into the General Association of Regular Baptist Churches.

The first services and meetings were held in the Farm Bureau building until 1961, when the first church building was raised. The church building was the former Methodist Church from Havelock, Iowa. The congregation continued to grow, and in 1978, it was decided to build a new church to accommodate the growing congregation. A new church building was completed and dedicated in 1981 and remains the congregation's church today.

Pocahontas Regular Baptist Church has been an integral part of the surrounding Pocahontas community, and for this I offer the congregation my utmost congratulations on a prosperous history. It is an honor to represent all the parishioners and the current Pastor, Tim Kuhn, in the United States Congress, and I wish them continued success, grace, peace and celebration as a community.

INTELLIGENCE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. PETER WELCH

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 16, 2008

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5959) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2009 for intelligence and intelligence-related activities of the United States Government, the Community Management Account, and the Central Intelligence Agency Retirement and Disability System, and for other purposes:

Mr. WELCH of Vermont. Mr. Chairman, I would like to thank Chairman REYES and the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence for their great work on this bill and for agreeing to include my amendment in the Manager's amendment to the bill.

Mr. Chairman, my amendment recognizes that we have a responsibility to the Iraqis and Afghans who have willingly put a target on their own backs by choosing to help our servicemen and women and our diplomats. These interpreters put themselves and their families in immense jeopardy every single day.

Unfortunately, Congress has been shamefully slow in ensuring their safety. Only now are we beginning to make progress in providing the opportunity of resettlement to those whose lives are at risk because of their work for us. This has come about largely because of the advocacy of our own troops, who have benefited day in and day out from the services of these interpreters and who have come to call them their brothers. They are asking us to stand up for the people who have stood up for them.

Meanwhile, our intelligence community faces a critical shortfall in linguists and cultural experts. Our national security is jeopardized daily by our inability to field the specialists necessary to translate and interpret valuable intelligence information.

Mr. Chairman, my amendment is simple, it requires the Director of National Intelligence to

assess whether some of the critical language needs in the intelligence community can be met by these Iraqi and Afghan interpreters who have already proven their loyalty through their service to our government. In doing so, my hope is that we could meet this urgent need for translators and interpreters in the intelligence community while providing meaningful employment to individuals who have risked their lives in service of our country.

I thank Chairman REYES and the Committee again for their support of my amendment, which is included in the Manager's amendment, and urge my colleagues to support it as well.

TRIBUTE TO CARLO J. DiMARCO

HON. PHIL ENGLISH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 22, 2008

Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Carlo J. DiMarco for his appointment as the 112th president of the American Osteopathic Association, the national organization that represents over 61,000 osteopathic physicians.

Dr. DiMarco has established himself as a distinguished leader within osteopathic community. A graduate of LaSalle College and the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine (PCOM), DiMarco spent more than 30 years working in Delaware County in Philadelphia, where he worked to strengthen and expand the ophthalmology residency program at PCOM. He has served as a board of trustees member and past president of several prestigious osteopathic organizations including the Pennsylvania Osteopathic Medical Association, the American Osteopathic Association, as well as the American Osteopathic Colleges of Ophthalmology and Otolaryngology.

In 2005, DiMarco was recruited to LECOM, located in my hometown of Erie, Pennsylvania. As the Professor and Regional Dean of Clinical Medicine, DiMarco is further developing the instructional and training programs at LECOM. By building relationships with students, residents and physician colleagues, DiMarco continues to contribute to his profession. He also serves as the director of the Ophthalmology Residency Program at Millcreek Hospital in my hometown of Erie, Pennsylvania.

Dr. DiMarco has truly been a community leader in the ophthalmology field. An outstanding physician, he continues the osteopathic tradition of assuring exemplary ophthalmology.

I hope my colleagues will join me in congratulating Dr. Carlo DiMarco and wishing him the best for a successful and rewarding tenure as the 112th president of the American Osteopathic Association.

DRILL RESPONSIBLY IN LEASED LANDS ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 17, 2008

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 6515, the Drill Responsibly in Leased Lands (DRILL) Act. I would like to thank the Speaker and the Democratic Leadership for taking action on the urgent and vitally important issue of high fuel prices and energy security.

In the face of high gasoline and fuel prices that are creating economic hardship for Americans, it is important that we maximize use of the resources that we have at our disposal today. The DRILL Act does this by requiring oil companies to drill in the 68 million acres of federal lands already leased but sitting idle. Such a measure is an important first step in our country's energy policy.

We have heard many calls from President Bush and our Republican colleagues for opening up new lands for drilling, both in the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) and the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR). Though these may seem like quick-fixes to our energy problems, they are misleading and do not address the problem of high prices and dependence on fossil fuels in the short or long-term. Neither OCS nor ANWR would produce oil for at least the next ten years. Congressional expert projections indicate no significant impact on oil and natural gas prices before 2030. Even then, there is no guarantee that increased production would affect prices at all. Oil prices are determined on an international market, and OPEC could neutralize the effect on oil prices by offsetting any additional supply U.S. oil production brings to the market.

The reality is that while we must look for ways to increase our domestic oil production in the shorter-term—as the DRILL Act does,—we cannot drill ourselves out of our energy problems in the long-term. The United States consumes 25 percent of the world's oil but only holds 3 percent of the world's known oil reserves. To ensure our country's security, prosperity, and environmental sustainability we must shift to cleaner sources of energy and increase efficiency in our energy use. Moving to clean, renewable energy sources will enhance our energy independence, bolster our economy through the creation of green jobs, and promote environmental sustainability. Biofuels, wind and solar energy are promising alternatives to oil and coal, and it is vital to invest in research and production incentives for these technologies. At the same time we must increase energy efficiency in our buildings and transportation sector.

Most importantly, Americans must think critically and proactively about lifestyle changes that simultaneously preserve the prosperity of our country and promote responsible stewardship of our planet.

Mr. Speaker, America's energy problem is a daunting one, but it is one we can solve if we work together to enact responsible policies for the short and long-term. I urge my colleagues to support the DRILL Act, as it is an important first step in the right direction. In the long-term, we must enact smart, forward looking policies that move us toward cleaner, sustain-

able energy and ensure prosperity and a healthy planet for future generations.

TRIBUTE TO GLADYS MARTENS

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 22, 2008

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Gladys Martens on the occasion of her 100th birthday on July 15, 2008.

Gladys was born on July 15, 1908 in Adair County, Iowa, as Gladys Petrie. She is a graduate of Drake University and was a teacher in Linden, Iowa. In 1939, she married Grant Martens and moved to a farm in rural Madison County, where she lived until 1997. Gladys is a life-long member of Van Meter Trinity Lutheran Church and currently lives at the West Bridge Care Center in Winterset, Iowa.

There have been many changes that have occurred during the past one hundred years. Since Gladys' birth we have revolutionized air travel and walked on the moon. We have invented the television and the Internet. We have fought in wars overseas, seen the rise and fall of Soviet communism and the birth of new democracies. Gladys has lived through eighteen United States Presidents and twenty-four Governors of Iowa. In her lifetime, the population of the United States has more than tripled.

I congratulate Gladys Martens for reaching this milestone of a birthday. I am extremely honored to represent Gladys in the United States Congress, and I wish her happiness and health in her future years.

RECOGNIZING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INTEGRATION OF THE ARMED SERVICES

SPEECH OF

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 14, 2008

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, in 1940 the U.S. population was about 131 million, 12.6 million of which was African American, or about 10 percent of the total population.

During World War II, the Army had become the Nation's largest minority employer. Of the 2.5 million African Americans males who registered for the draft more than one million were inducted into the armed forces. African Americans, who constituted approximately 11 per cent of all draftees. Along with thousands of black women, these inductees served with distinction in all branches of service and in all Theaters of Operations during World War II.

I have a proud personal connection to one of those who risked their lives in the segregated service. Over 966 Black military aviators were trained at the Tuskegee Airfield. One of these men, I am proud to say, was my uncle, the Reverend LeRoy Cleaver, Jr.

The Tuskegee Airmen carried a heavy burden. Every single mission, every success, every failure was viewed in relation to the color of their skin. They could fly the skies valiantly and return to the tarmac only to have their white peers refuse to return their salutes.

Even the Nazis asked why African American men would fight for a country that treated them so unfairly. Yet the Tuskegee Airmen were eager to fly and die for a Nation that had done little for them.

These men, like over a million others who fought in World War II, fought two wars: One was in Europe, and the other in the hearts and minds of Americans.

As a poignant example, the white commander of the Tuskegee airfield was once asked—with all seriousness—how do African Americans fly? He said, “Oh, they fly just like everybody else flies—stick and rudder.” Little by little, every victory at war was translated to a victory here in the United States.

On February 2, 1948, President Truman, in no small part due to the bravery of the men of Tuskegee, announced in a special message to Congress that he had, “instructed the Secretary of Defense to take steps to have the remaining instances of discrimination in the armed services eliminated as rapidly as possible.”

President Truman’s former colleagues and drinking partners, the Senators from the Southern States immediately threatened a filibuster. The typically bull-headed man from Missouri forced the issue by using his executive powers. Among other things, Truman bolstered the civil rights division, appointed the first African American judge to the Federal bench, named several other African Americans to high-ranking administration positions, and most important, 60 years ago on July 26, 1948, he issued an executive order abolishing segregation in the armed forces and ordering full integration of all the services.

Executive Order 9981 declared that “there shall be equality of treatment and opportunity for all persons in the armed forces without regard to race, color, religion, or national origin.” By the end of the Korean conflict, almost all the military was integrated.

The men and women I am proud to represent in Missouri’s Fifth District have contributed a great deal to this Nation we love. They have fought wars, supplied the expansion the West, founded religions, painted masterpieces, composed symphonies—but perhaps none have done more to shape the face of the earth than President Truman. May history always remember Executive Order 9981 as quintessential Truman. In classic Truman style, the order was an example of making a decision not because it was easy, but because it was the right thing to do.

RECOGNIZING THE ESCAMBIA FEDERATED REPUBLICAN WOMEN’S CLUB UPON ITS 50th ANNIVERSARY

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 22, 2008

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, it is an honor for me to rise today in recognition of the Escambia Federated Republican Women’s Club upon their 50th anniversary.

For the past 50 years the Escambia Federated Republican Women’s Club, EFRWC, has been working to better the government at all levels. Since 1958, these women have do-

nated thousands of volunteer hours to ensure Republican victories in endless political campaigns. The election of countless county, State, and Federal representatives is due to the hard work and dedication of its spirited members.

In addition to their civic dedications, the EFRWC is also a large force in the local community. Favor House, ARC Gateway, and the Ronald McDonald House are just a highlight of the local charities that have benefitted from the outstanding philanthropy of these women. The Lillian Baines Memorial Scholarship for Political Science and Communications students is another program funded by the EFRWC’s benevolence. The group also benefits political education locally by mentoring young Republican women, thereby strengthening conservative values and viewpoints in the areas they serve.

The EFRWC persistently serves the community and its volunteers play a vital role in the physiology of elections. They take on numerous responsibilities and assist with the vital aspects of campaign work. The women of EFRWC have exceeded the expected duties of volunteers and their 50th anniversary is evidence of their immense philanthropy. The EFRWC’s dedication and devotion to Republican candidates benefits the entire community and their outstanding accomplishments have distinguished them as one of the great organizations in Northwest Florida. Escambia County is greatly indebted to their service and is honored to have them as one of their own.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am proud to recognize the Escambia Federated Republican Women’s Club on its 50th anniversary.

ESTABLISHING PROGRAM TO MAKE GRANTS REGARDING BACKUP PAPER BALLOTS

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 15, 2008

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the Backup Paper Ballot Bill. This bill will ensure our commitment to improving a secure, reliable, accessible voting system for all Americans, and help secure our nation’s confidence in the election result.

Voting is one of the most fundamental rights in our democratic system. The U.S. Constitution promises every eligible American an equal and fair opportunity to participate in the political process. In order to keep our country strong, we must encourage our citizens to vote and when they vote, we must guarantee that their vote will count.

The 2008 election promises to bring out record numbers to the polls. In past elections, such as Florida and Pennsylvania, machine failures caused voters to be turned away and long lines at the polls. Encouraging the use of emergency paper ballots will help ensure that every voter will have their vote count, and make it less likely that voters will be turned away from the polls because of machine malfunction. Although many states require backup paper ballots they don’t have the resources to do it.

This bill will provide grants to state and local governments to purchase backup paper ballots in the event that an electronic voting system fails to operate properly or there is some other emergency situation. Participation would be voluntary and states would have to institute eligible programs.

We must take the necessary precautions to ensure that the voices of all Americans are heard in the 2008 election. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this bill.

IN SUPPORT OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY RESPONSE ACT

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 22, 2008

Mrs. CAPPS. Madam Speaker, today I rise to submit for the RECORD a letter from several health organizations supporting the Public Health Emergency Response Act of 2008, which I introduced earlier today.

JULY 22, 2008.

Hon. RICHARD DURBIN,

U.S. Senate,

Washington, DC.

Hon. LOIS CAPPS,

U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR DURBIN AND REPRESENTATIVE CAPPS: The undersigned organizations join in supporting your introduction of the Public Health Emergency Response Act (PHERA), legislation that would put a turn-key process into place which would ensure that victims of a public health emergency have immediate access to medically necessary healthcare services and help ensure that we have a functioning health care system.

A public health emergency, such as a natural disaster, biologic attack or infectious disease outbreak, could strike at any time. The September 11th attacks and Hurricanes Katrina and Rita have underscored the need for rapid access to healthcare services during and immediately following a public health emergency. Following Hurricane Katrina, Congress ultimately approved \$2.1 billion for grants to certain states to cover the Medicaid and SCHIP matching requirements for individuals enrolled in these programs, and the cost of uncompensated care for the uninsured. However, it took six months for Congress to pass the Deficit Reduction Act, which provided for these funds. This unnecessary delay could have been prevented. PHERA would put into place ahead of time a framework for providing reimbursement for uncompensated care in the event of a major public health emergency.

The temporary benefit established through this bill would help remove a disincentive for uninsured individuals to promptly seek medical care. Any delay in seeking care could result in lives lost, particularly during an infectious disease outbreak when immediate identification and isolation are very important, and delay in seeking care could render treatment ineffective. At a time when our health care system could be overwhelmed with patients, it is vital that reimbursement issues not dissuade providers from offering care. A study by the Center for Biosecurity estimated that U.S. hospitals could lose as much as \$3.9 billion in uncompensated care and cash flow losses in the event of a severe pandemic. By helping to reduce the burden of uncompensated care, PHERA would help ensure the solvency and continuity and our

health care system during a catastrophic emergency.

Specifically, PHERA would provide a temporary emergency health benefit for uninsured individuals and individuals whose health insurance coverage is not actuarially equivalent to benchmark coverage, in the event that the Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS) declares that a public health emergency exists and chooses to activate the benefit. It would clarify who is eligible for this benefit, including individuals displaced by a public health emergency, limit the amount of time for which the benefit would last, and stipulate what providers would be covered under this Act. It would not use Medicare, Medicaid or SCHIP funding. The funding mechanism would be the Public Health Emergency Fund, a no-year fund available to the Secretary. The bill authorizes funding for the administration of the fund, together with a public education campaign on the availability of the benefit, but further funding would not be necessary until Congress appropriated funds in the event of a declared public health emergency.

Past experiences have shown that Congress will step in to help defray the costs of uncompensated care resulting from a catastrophic emergency. Determining the scope of such coverage ahead of time will help ensure the solvency of our health care system and help eliminate a disincentive for individuals to promptly seek care. PHERA would help ensure that when tragedy strikes, time and lives are not lost as Congress debates a course of action. It would create the turnkey process ahead of time, thereby allowing for timely care to individuals affected by a crisis.

We appreciate your leadership in introducing this legislation and look forward to working with you on this and other public health initiatives in the future.

Sincerely,

American Red Cross.

CENTER FOR BIOSECURITY,

University of Pittsburgh Medical Center.

Center for Infectious Disease Research and Policy.

Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists.

Infectious Diseases Society of America.

National Association of Community Health Centers.

Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America.

Trust for America's Health.

TRIBUTE TO DON BETTS

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 22, 2008

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Don Betts as the recipient of the 2008 Educator of the Year from the Iowa Association of Alternative Education and for his outstanding service as a teacher and director at Carrie Lane Alternative School in Charles City, Iowa.

The Educator of the Year award is presented each year to an alternative educator who makes a significant contribution to alternative education in Iowa. Don currently is the only teacher at Carrie Lane. He understands that in alternative education, relationships based on encouragement are necessary, and he continues to build upon those relationships well after graduation. His hard work and motivational skills have helped many students per-

severe and earn their high school diplomas, and the confidence he instills in his students opens doors to learning opportunities and future success.

I congratulate Don Betts on his well-deserved award, and I'm certain that he will continue to touch the lives of many students in his community. It is a great honor to represent Don in the United States Congress, and I wish him continued success at Carrie Lane Alternative School.

COMMEMORATION OF THE 34TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INVASION OF CYPRUS

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 22, 2008

Mr. CARTER. Madam Speaker, 34 years ago, Turkish troops invaded the Island of Cyprus, resulting in the death and displacement of thousands of Greek and Turkish Cypriot citizens; leaving behind a state of conflict within a civilization that can trace its history back more than ten thousand years. A 113-mile long divide was created as the Turks began their occupation of one third of the island, which exists to present day.

Today, we recognize this tragic event, but we also look at, with hope, the future that lies ahead.

As part of a congressional delegation last November, other members of Congress and I discussed this long-standing conflict and the path toward resolution with members of the Cyprus government. I am encouraged by the recent overtures made by leaders on both sides of the Cyprus question.

I am hopeful that the meetings between President Christofias and Mr. Talat will continue, and that the work of the mutually established Working Groups and Technical Communities may ultimately lead to a unified Cypriot nation.

I am confident that through tolerance, compromise and the continuation of diplomatic efforts, lasting solutions to the remaining differences will be attained.

HONORING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF CAPTAIN SCOTT J. FERGUSON

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 22, 2008

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the significant achievements of Captain Scott J. Ferguson whose service with the U.S. Coast Guard Sector Buffalo were concluded today during a change of command ceremony on 1 Fuhrmann Blvd.

As the Commander of the United States Coast Guard Sector Buffalo, Captain Scott J. Ferguson was responsible for a 570 mile coastline stretching from Massena, NY, to Vermillion, OH, including three of the five finger lakes, St. Lawrence River, Niagara River, Lake Erie, Lake Ontario and the Erie Barge Canal. Captain Ferguson has been awarded three Meritorious Service Medals, three Coast Guard Commendation Medals, a Navy

Achievement Medal, and the Transportation 9-11 Medal, along with many others.

Captain Ferguson has done a great deal for Sector Buffalo during his time as Commander. He always made it his mission to ensure the complete safety of those in his area of responsibility. He ensured that all personnel working in Sector Buffalo were properly trained and equipped to handle any emergency situation. Captain Ferguson continually worked on fulfilling his firm belief that Sector Buffalo was the "gatekeeper" of the Great Lakes.

Captain Ferguson truly worked on promoting safe boating practices. In doing so, Captain Ferguson hosted a Safe Boating Week in Sector Buffalo to educate citizens on safe water and boating practices. In addition, he created the Annual Eastern Great Lakes Water Safety Expo, which included safety demonstrations, free recreation vessel inspections and tours of the Sector Buffalo Coast Guard base and the Buffalo Lighthouse.

Captain Ferguson will be leaving to serve as the chief of prevention at the Seventh Coast Guard District in Miami. Madam Speaker, I ask you to join me in thanking Captain Scott Ferguson for all that he has done for Western New York and Sector Buffalo and wish him every success in his future.

RECOGNIZING THE 34TH COMMEMORATION OF THE TURKISH INVASION OF CYPRUS

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 22, 2008

Mr. ANDREWS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the people of Cyprus who have experienced an illegal occupation that has divided their nation for the last 34 years. On July 20, 1974, an unlawful Turkish invasion created a division between the northern and southern parts of the island. This division still exists today despite the best efforts of the United Nations to broker a solution. However, I am encouraged by recent events that the reunification of Cyprus is now a real possibility.

The Turkish invasion of Cyprus in 1974 was followed by widespread condemnation in the international community. The invasion and occupation drove nearly 200,000 Greek Cypriots from their homes. Sadly, about 5,000 Cypriots were killed in the attack and 1,400 Greek Cypriots remain missing and unaccounted for. Nearly a decade after the attack, Turkey advanced a "unilateral declaration of independence" in the northern area of the island occupied by the Turkish military. In response, the United Nations Security Council passed Resolution 541, which denounced the claim of an independent state and called for the withdrawal of the declaration.

I am greatly encouraged by the progress currently being accomplished in Cyprus. At his inauguration this February, incoming Cypriot President Demetris Christofias announced that solving the Cyprus problem is going to be the first priority of his government. In response, the leader of the Turkish Cypriot community, Mehmet Ali Talat, said that a solution in Cyprus is possible by the end of 2008.

The current state of affairs in Cyprus presents an opportunity for the United States to show leadership by working together with the

UN and Cyprus to facilitate a peace process. It will take the cooperation of the international community to bring the stalemate to an acceptable conclusion.

I applaud the leadership of President Christofias and his determination to reunify the country of Cyprus. The people of Cyprus have waited a long 34 years for peace and justice. They deserve the help of the United States and the international community in their endeavor.

TRIBUTE TO ROBERT BLOSSER

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 22, 2008

Mr. SKELTON. Madam Speaker, let me take this opportunity to pay tribute to Robert Blosser of Jefferson City, MO, who was recently inducted into the Missouri Newspaper Hall of Fame.

In 1932, Mr. Blosser began his lifelong career with the Jefferson City News Tribune at the age of 18. For a 30 month stretch, Mr. Blosser left for WWII as a combat photographer. Upon his homecoming in 1945, he faithfully returned to the News Tribune. With time, Mr. Blosser became the company's president and also served as president of a local television station owned by the News Tribune. Mr. Blosser's leadership was recognized by the Missouri Press Association when he was elected president of the association in 1976. After numerous years with the News Tribune, Mr. Blosser retired in 1984. He continued to serve on the News Tribune's board of directors until earlier this year when the company was sold.

In addition to these accomplishments, Mr. Blosser served on the board of Chamber of Commerce and Salvation Army in Jefferson City. He has delivered Meals on Wheels for more than 20 years. Mr. Blosser also is an active Lion's Club member and served on the board of the United Way. Still today, at the age of 93, Mr. Blosser mentors at East Grade School in Jefferson City and serves on the board of the Senior Nutrition Center where he frequently volunteers. On top of these achievements, Mr. Blosser and his wife, Marge, have three children.

Madam Speaker, Robert Blosser has distinguished himself as a valuable leader of his community and as a role model for young Americans. I know that members of the House will join me in wishing Robert Blosser all the best.

SUDDEN CARDIAC ARREST AWARENESS MONTH

HON. CHARLES W. "CHIP" PICKERING

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 22, 2008

Mr. PICKERING. Madam Speaker, today I introduce a resolution to designate October as Sudden Cardiac Arrest Awareness Month.

By selecting this month as Sudden Cardiac Arrest Awareness Month, we can promote awareness of this tragic disease, and support the goals of a "National Sudden Cardiac Arrest Awareness Month."

The Heart Rhythm Society states that Sudden Cardiac Arrest takes the lives of more than 250,000 people in the United States each year and has approximately a 95 percent mortality rate according to the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute. In order to survive the attack, the American Heart Association states that victims of sudden cardiac arrest must receive a lifesaving defibrillation within the first 4 to 6 minutes of an attack.

Sean Patrick O'Hara, a 21-year-old University of Mississippi student, died of Sudden Cardiac Arrest while studying for final exams. Sean's mother, Dawn Cartwright, has started the only Sudden Cardiac Arrest Chapter in Mississippi to spread awareness, educate the public, and to help provide Automated External Defibrillators in all public venues. Through tireless dedication, Ms. Cartwright is working to raise public awareness about the devastating effects of Sudden Cardiac Arrest.

Education and public awareness about sudden cardiac arrest, the warning signs and the need to seek medical attention are critical to preventing Sudden Cardiac Arrest deaths.

I hope that my colleagues will join Ms. CAPPS and myself to help save lives and inform the public about this critical disease by naming October National Sudden Cardiac Arrest Awareness Month.

FIGHTING AGAINST FAULTY MEDICAL DEVICES

HON. ANTHONY D. WEINER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 22, 2008

Mr. WEINER. I rise today in support of the recently introduced Medical Device Safety Act of 2008. This much-needed legislation would restore an injured consumer's ability to hold negligent medical device manufacturers accountable for product-related deaths and injuries.

The Medical Device Safety Act addresses the problems created by the Supreme Court's February 20, 2008, decision in *Riegel v. Medtronic*. This decision stripped away essential consumer rights by supplying device manufacturers with total immunity from liability.

It's difficult to see the reasoning behind this special treatment for device manufacturers when you consider what happened to Bridget Robb. In May 2005, Ms. Robb was diagnosed with nonischemic, viral cardiomyopathy and congestive heart failure. To prevent her from dying from a fatal arrhythmia, she had a Medtronic cardiac defibrillator and pacemaker implanted in her chest. On December 31, 2007, a wire in Ms. Robb's defibrillator broke, causing the device to send a strong electric current to her heart. Ms. Robb suffered 31 electric shocks in 13 minutes in front of her 6-year-old daughter. Medtronic knew about this defect, but issued only a voluntary recall. Since this frightening experience, Ms. Robb has undergone two surgeries to replace her defibrillator and goes to doctor's appointments almost weekly for follow-up appointments and testing.

Prior to the Supreme Court's decision in *Riegel*, the FDA and State courts protected consumers, like Ms. Robb, together. Since *Riegel*, consumers only have the FDA to protect them; and the FDA has insufficient re-

sources to do so effectively. The Medical Device Safety Act ensures that consumers like Bridget Robb will be able to seek legal recourse for their injuries and reiterates Congressional intent that State laws must work hand in hand with Federal regulations to protect consumers.

For these reasons, I urge support for Congressman PALLONE and Congressman WAXMAN's bill, H.R. 6381. I look forward to working towards passage of this legislation and restoring these, critical, basic consumer protections.

34TH BLACK ANNIVERSARY OF THE TURKISH INVASION OF CYPRUS

HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 22, 2008

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and remember those Cypriots who lost their lives defending the Republic of Cyprus during the 1974 military coup against the democratically elected government of Archbishop Makarios, who was then President of Cyprus.

This military coup paved the way for the Turkish invasion of Cyprus five days later that resulted in the occupation of 37 percent of the Republic's territory. Nearly 200,000 Greek Cypriots were expelled from their homes and an estimated 5,000 were killed. More than 1,400 Greek Cypriots, including four Americans of Cypriot descent, remain missing since the Turkish invasion, their fate still unaccounted for.

The repercussions of this terrible day are still in play today, affecting the lives of every Cypriot, European policy, and the actions of the United Nations and international community. The so-called "Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus" is recognized as legitimate by no nation other than Turkey. With more than 40,000 Turkish troops illegally stationed on the island, it is one of the most militarized areas in the world.

However, on this day when we pause to remember this violent act against the people of Cyprus, we also have hope that a genuine and long-lasting peace may be restored and families reunited. In 2004, Cyprus' accession to the European Union triggered a process of economic and social integration between Greek-Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots. Since the partial lifting of restrictions along the cease-fire line by the Turkish forces in April 2003, there have been over 13 million incident-free crossings by Greek and Turkish Cypriots. More than 60,000 Turkish Cypriots have received Cypriot passports or other official documents, allowing Turkish Cypriots to travel, work or reside in any European Union country.

More importantly, however, is the commitment of the Cyprus government to achieving a solution to healing the division of Cyprus. Such a solution should be based on a bi-communal, bi-zonal federal State of Cyprus with a single sovereignty and citizenship, with its independence and territorial integrity safeguarded, in line with relevant United Nations resolutions.

Since his election in February 2008, the current president of Cyprus, Demetris Christofias,

has followed through on his promise to make the solution of the Cyprus problem his top priority. The day of his election, he extended his hand in friendship to Turkish Cypriot leader Mehmet Talat, calling for face-to-face meetings. As a result, President Christofias and Mr. Talat will meet for the fourth time on July 25th. Over the past six months, working groups and technical committees have been preparing the ground for direct fully-fledged negotiations, with the aim of reaching a settlement of the Cyprus problem. On July 13th, in Paris, United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki Moon assured President Christofias of the U.N.'s continuing interest to achieve a Cyprus settlement through negotiations by Cypriots for Cypriots.

These are all promising measures, Madam Speaker. So I can only hope that before next year's anniversary, the world will finally see a negotiated resolution that heals the wounds of the 1974 invasion, reunites the Cypriot people once more, and provides a genuine and lasting peace to Cyprus.

TRIBUTE TO MICHAEL S. FINEGAN

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 22, 2008

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and thank Mr. Michael S. Finegan for his service as the Director of Veteran Affairs Western New York Healthcare System. Mr. Finegan has truly made great strides for the veterans in the Western New York area.

Mr. Finegan gained his Bachelor's Degree from Allegheny College, and later earned his Master's Degree in Public Administration from the State University of New York Rockefeller College of Public Affairs and Policy. Mr. Finegan has since achieved great things in the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Mr. Finegan has taken on a variety of different roles throughout his tenure with the Department of Veterans Affairs. From 1997 to 2000, Mr. Finegan served as Chief Financial and Operations Officer for VA Healthcare Network Upstate New York, where he was personally responsible for the development, coordination and monitoring of the Network's financial management and operations. For the following three years, Mr. Finegan took the position of Director of the VA Medical Center in Butler, Pennsylvania, as well as lead director for Veterans Integrated Service Network 4.

Since late 2003, Mr. Finegan has successfully served as Director of VA Western New York Healthcare System, during which time he served as Acting Director of the VA Healthcare Network for Upstate New York for a brief period in 2006. At the VA Western New York Healthcare System, Mr. Finegan led a staff of 1,750 employees who have provided the finest health care to more than 40,000 veterans of military service during the past year alone. He has also carried on the highly regarded clinical research and training programs for America's future health care contributors.

Mr. Finegan is currently a member of the American College of Healthcare Executives, the Healthcare Financial Managers Association and the American Society of Public Administration. Mr. Michael S. Finegan is an innovative leader for veterans around the country, especially in the Western New York area.

Madam Speaker, I ask you to join me in recognizing the many achievements of Mr. Finegan and wishing him luck in all future endeavors.

SUPPORTING NATIONAL CYSTIC FIBROSIS AWARENESS MONTH

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 22, 2008

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, on Tuesday July 15th, the House of Representatives passed unanimously by voice vote H. Con. Res. 299, a resolution supporting the goals and ideals of National Cystic Fibrosis Awareness Month. As a proud cosponsor of this resolution, I am grateful that the House of Representatives took the time to show our support for those who are fighting for better treatment and a cure for cystic fibrosis.

Our ability to help families and the medical community make headway against this disease is vital. With approximately 30,000 Americans living with this disease—a large percentage of which are children—raising funding and awareness for research will bring hope and real results.

In an effort to raise money and awareness for cystic fibrosis research, the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation has held an annual Celebrity Tennis Gala for the past 23 years. Since the beginning of these annual events, the life-expectancy of a child born with cystic fibrosis has more than doubled. This is in no small part due to the money raised at this event and others. Last year alone, the Foundation raised more than \$350,000 which is a substantial part of the \$2.5 million raised over the years through the gala. I had the privilege of being a part of the 2008 event, where my Chief of Staff Dino Teppara was a key player, and I was encouraged by the dedication of the families I met and the hard-working individuals at the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation.

America has remained a leader in medical research and our scientists continue to lead the way in inching closer to a cure for many diseases. I look forward to working with my colleagues and the American people as we battle together to find a cure for cystic fibrosis and other diseases.

HONORING ALFREDO FLORES SR.

HON. CHARLES A. GONZALES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 22, 2008

Mr. GONZALES. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Alfredo Flores Senior, a constituent of mine who on August 10th will celebrate his 100th birthday.

Mr. Flores was born in Muzquiz, a city in the Mexican state of Coahuila. Caught in the crossfire of the Mexican Revolution, Flores immigrated to the United States when he was just 15 years old. Then a young man, he found himself in a strange country with an absent father and a mother and sister who relied on him to put food on the table. And while the Great Depression greeted him on his 18th birthday, he built a business that thrived despite the difficult odds that he faced.

Today, Alamo Music Center is San Antonio's largest music store and has served people across South Central Texas for decades. It has not only become an important part of our economy but our community as well.

Notably, Mr. Flores has always lived up to the responsibility that came with his success and stature in the community. He co-founded the Westside State Bank that specialized in delivering financial services to low-income minorities and has played an integral role in various community interest groups across San Antonio.

Mr. Flores life is a true personification of the American dream. He came to this country to realize a better life for him and his family, and through hard work he achieved this noble goal and put himself in a position where he could give back to his community. For these reasons, I'm honored to celebrate his achievements as we approach this milestone in his life, and ask my colleagues to join me in wishing Mr. Flores a Happy 100th Birthday.

FUTURE OF CYPRUS

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 22, 2008

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, many of my colleagues have supported a settlement of the Cyprus issue for decades. They have come to the floor and urged Turkish and Greek Cypriots to overcome the difficulties and reach an agreement regarding the future of the island.

On July 1, 2008, Greek Cypriot leader Demetris Christofias and Turkish Cypriot leader Mehmet Ali Talat met in a positive and cooperative atmosphere. At this meeting, the two leaders reviewed the progress of the Working Groups and Technical Committees, and, momentarily, agreed in principle on the issue of a single sovereignty and citizenship. The Cypriot leaders will meet again on July 25 to undertake a final review of preparations for full-fledged negotiations.

This is not the first time there has been cause for hope. After four and a half years of negotiations and numerous failed attempts, a United Nations Comprehensive Settlement Plan was completed on March 31, 2004. The final hurdle was two separate, simultaneous referenda to be held on both sides of the island on April 24, 2004.

Turkish Cypriots approved the plan by 65 percent, while their Greek Cypriot counterparts rejected it by 76 percent.

The ironic outcome was that the Greek Cypriots, having turned down a peaceful settlement, became full member of the European Union, while the Turkish Cypriots were excluded, further isolating the North.

Congress should evenhandedly support these developments, and refrain from taking any actions which would disrupt the process. I congratulate both leaders on this important breakthrough and urge them to continue the process which will provide a bright future for the peoples of Cyprus.

TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM J. FRAWLEY

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 22, 2008

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the loss of one of Buffalo's finest public servants with the passing of William J. Frawley, a 39-year member of the Buffalo Police Department, on the 4th of July.

Inspector Frawley demonstrated his commitment to our country at an early age when he enlisted in the U.S. Army at age 17 where he fought in Italy, France, Germany and Austria while serving with the 36th Infantry Division.

As a veteran of World War II, he returned home to begin another chapter of service to his fellow citizens when he joined the Buffalo Police Department in 1947. Rising through the ranks, Bill Frawley personified professional standards and a strong sense of humanity as he rose through the ranks as a patrolman, lieutenant, captain and inspector. His calm and conscientious manner was especially needed when he oversaw the 911 operations during the Blizzard of 1977 as head of the Division of Administration and Communications.

Known as a "cop's cop," Inspector Frawley will be remembered in the words offered by Chief of Detectives Dennis Richards who called Bill a decent, compassionate leader and a mentor to future generations who lived by his own credo, "never asked someone to do something that you yourself would not do."

As his sister, Kathleen, noted in the Buffalo News, he was a humble man of integrity who "was tireless in his job. He did it because he loved it." He also valued education returning to college where he earned a bachelor's degree in political science from the University at Buffalo in the 1970's.

Though he retired in 1986, Inspector Frawley's legacy continued on through his design of the Buffalo Police Reorganization Plan which consolidated the city's 14 precincts into five districts. It was after his retirement that I became most familiar with his vision and management skills as I took up the challenge of implementing the plan during my tenure as a member of the Buffalo Common Council. The first consolidated district would eventually become a reality in my home district in South Buffalo.

And South Buffalo was also Bill's home where young children would knock on the Frawley family door on Pomona Place for words of praise for improved report cards and special treats for special occasions. He was a strong, generous and faithful member of St. Teresa's Parish and in his later years, St. Agatha's Church. His service to others extended to giving of himself as he donated blood to the Roswell Park Cancer Institute Plasmapheresis Center nearly 600 times.

His life story began a new chapter when he married Joan Haltam in 1982 and for the next 22 years, the Inspector became a loving, caring husband and stepfather until her death in 2004. His devotion to his stepchildren, Joseph, Karen and Michael, never wavered.

Madam Speaker, please join me in expressing our deepest sympathy to his beloved sister, Kathleen, and his stepchildren for their loss and our most sincere appreciation for the life of William J. Frawley. We are grateful for his lifelong example, both professionally and

personally, of selfless public service, integrity, faith and dedication to family and community.

TRIBUTE TO UNITED WAY OF HUDSON COUNTY

HON. ALBIO SIRE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 22, 2008

Mr. SIRE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to highlight the good work of the United Way of Hudson County in the 130th District of New Jersey, which I have the honor of representing in Congress. The United Way of Hudson County has a distinguished history of working with its partners to help the homeless in Hudson County. Hudson County has about 300 chronic homeless and another 2,700 people who are in and out of homelessness, representing nearly 1 percent of the residents in our community.

I would like to highlight just a few of the good things the United Way of Hudson County is doing in my district. They are responsible for providing funding to many social services agencies working with the homeless, including a Bayonne facility for homeless men, a program for the elderly in Jersey City, a training program for 59 shelter residents, housing for Hudson County individuals with HIV/AIDS, meals, transitional housing, a soup kitchen, and educational services for homeless persons. In 2005, the United Way of Hudson County created an Emergency Shelter System for the Homeless that was widely honored by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, the State of New Jersey, and the State Association of Community Development Directors. In 2006, the United Way of Hudson County was awarded the county's first "Housing First" grant for \$1.2 million from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. This grant provided housing and social services for 26 disabled individuals. Their Housing First focus, championed by the United Way of Hudson County and County Executive Tom DeGise, will provide housing, hope, and a better future for the homeless of Hudson County.

Please join me in honoring the United Way of Hudson County as we celebrate their good work at the Second Annual New Jersey Congressional Reception on July 30, 2008.

INTRODUCTION OF THE FDIC FLEXIBILITY ACT OF 2008

HON. DAVID DREIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 22, 2008

Mr. DREIER. Madam Speaker, all of us are watching the news, concerned about the economy and our financial markets. The regulators of our financial services companies, the Federal Reserve, the SEC, and the banking regulators are all using the tools they have at their disposal to make sure small investors and depositors are as safe as possible in this environment.

Among the most important duties that fall to our banking regulators is the protection of deposits. Average families and small business

owners alike all depend on the Federal safety net to ensure that their savings are safe. Sometimes, ensuring the safety of those deposits requires regulators to step in when a bank or thrift becomes insolvent. For instance, in my own district, I have nearly 10,000 IndyMac depositors. The FDIC acted quickly to resolve this institution and is running it until that bank can either be returned to business as a safe institution, or its assets, including the deposits, can be transferred to a stronger financial institution that can meet the demands of its depositors.

While Congress has taken steps over the past several years to ensure that the deposit insurance system is strong—and it is—the IndyMac situation demonstrates that every bank failure is different. Therefore, the regulators need as much flexibility as possible to ensure that they can respond to whatever the market throws at them.

That is why today I am introducing the "FDIC Flexibility Act of 2008." After talking with the widely respected Bill Seidman, the chairman of the FDIC during much of the response to the savings and loan crisis, I believe that some well-intentioned provisions of the law may actually make the FDIC's job of resolving troubled institutions harder, not easier.

The bill will repeal the "low cost solution" provisions which require the FDIC to always choose the solution with the lowest cost to the banking fund when resolving an institution. The problem is that what might be a low cost solution for a particular institution might not always be the best or fastest way to ensure that depositors have access to their funds. If depositors can't get access to their money, this can cause a crisis of confidence in the entire banking system, and put other institutions in jeopardy people start runs on banks.

Sometimes, the best way to resolve an institution may not be the absolute cheapest—such as selling the failed institution to a stronger bank at a discount—but it will increase confidence and stability in the banking system as a whole, and reduce exposure over the long-term.

I don't believe that this is the silver bullet to resolve every crisis we're facing, nor is it the only answer to the problems of resolving failed banks. But I think we need to have the discussion about what kinds of tools our regulators need, and with an advocate as widely respected as Chairman Seidman, this is a good place to start.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF PAUL J. KOESSLER

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 22, 2008

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Paul J. Koessler, a tireless civic leader, generous philanthropist, and devout Western New Yorker. Paul's service and commitment to Buffalo has left a long enduring impact on our community, and he will be sorely missed.

A Harvard Business School graduate and successful businessman, Paul never forgot his roots and always remembered the importance of giving back to the community he called

home. In 1980, Paul joined his brother, John W. "Jack" Jr., CEO of Greater Buffalo Press, to serve as company president and COO of the largest printer of Sunday comics in the world and a leader in advertising insert printing. Greater Buffalo Press has seven plants in the United States as well as one in Canada, and, at one point, had 2,100 employees. In 1989 Paul moved to Nashville to serve as vice chairman of Sullivan Graphics, only to return to Buffalo in the 1990's. With Paul's increasing success in business, he gave back to his community. In 2006, his philanthropic foundation gave 40 grants worth close to \$300,000 to Western New York charities, churches, and schools, and he led a \$20 million dollar fundraising campaign for Canisius High School, where he graduated from in 1955.

Paul also served on the boards of the Buffalo & Erie County Historical Society, Buffalo Venture, Buffalo Niagara Partnership, Contract Staffing, Dunn Tire Corp, Hauptman-Woodward Medical Research Institute, Roswell Park Alliance Foundation, Sisters Hospital Foundation, WNED, and Canisius High School. Paul was also chairman of the board of trustees at Canisius College and received the school's Board of Regents Distinguished Citizen Achievement Award for his significant contributions to the Western New York community.

Paul's role as chairman of the Peace Bridge Authority was a recent testament to his great leadership in Buffalo. Three governors, both Republican and Democratic, have named Paul to the Peace Bridge Authority over the years. Paul's respectful manner, integrity, genuine character, and tenacious spirit made him a great champion for progress in Buffalo. Paul Koessler was widely respected because he was always respectful—to anyone and everyone he came in contact with. Paul was a strong and effective advocate for groundbreaking projects important to Western New York and will be especially missed as a leader and a partner in the effort to construct a new Peace Bridge.

Madam Speaker, Paul Koessler was a dedicated leader and beloved man who cherished his community. His legacy in Western New York is invaluable and enduring. My thoughts and prayers are with his wife, Niscah, and children, Susan, Joanne, Lana, Gretchen, Joe, Eric, Kimberly, Robert, Theodore, and Brian. I thank you for joining me in expressing to the Koessler family the deepest condolences of the House for their loss.

IN RECOGNITION OF KIMBERLY ALLEN

HON. STEVEN R. ROTHMAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 22, 2008

Mr. ROTHMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the outstanding contributions and dedication of my communications director, Kimberly Allen, as she leaves to relocate to Richmond, Virginia with her husband, Tom Emswiler. Kimberly has been on my staff for more than 2½ years, and during that time she has demonstrated extraordinary talent, grace under pressure, and the highest ethical and professional standards as my public spokesperson. She has also done a superb job han-

dling the inquiries my office has received from national, State, and local media outlets. Kimberly has a true gift with words, is steadfastly loyal, and embodies the very spirit of teamwork.

Kimberly grew up in Annandale, Virginia and attended Annandale High School. She later attended Boston University's College of Communication and graduated with a bachelor of science in Communication in 2002. Before joining my office, Kimberly worked at the American Association of Colleges of Nursing as their communications assistant and webmaster. She later served as the communications and production manager for the Association of Trial Lawyers of America. Her previous experience served her well and helped make her a very effective communications director.

In addition to serving long hours as the brilliant spokesperson for my office, Kimberly is extremely involved in community activities and volunteers to help those who are less fortunate. Since 2002, she has annually prepared tax forms at weekend clinics for those who are not able to afford private assistance with their income taxes. She has also volunteered at "We Are Family," which provides groceries to families in need, since 2007.

Madam Speaker, over the past 2½ years, my office has come to know Kimberly Allen well and we will remember her as a conscientious and dedicated colleague, a gifted writer with a great sense of humor, and a loyal friend to her fellow coworkers. She has been a passionate advocate for protecting the freedom of the press, immigration reform, and human rights. Throughout her tenure with my office, Kimberly has provided me with good counsel and effective communication to the people of New Jersey. She has my deep respect and appreciation for all of the contributions she has made to my office and the work she has done. I wish Kimberly the very best and know that she has a bright future ahead of her.

COMMEMORATING THE TURKISH INVASION OF CYPRUS

HON. NITA M. LOWEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 22, 2008

Mrs. LOWEY. Madam Speaker, today, we sadly commemorate the 34th anniversary of the Turkish occupation of Cyprus. Over a third of a century ago, more than 200,000 Cypriots were driven from their homes and forced to live under foreign occupation. The legacy of this occupation still weighs heavily on the northern third of the island, which remains occupied by Turkish troops. In fact, the Turkish-Cypriot Administered North Cyprus has the dubious distinction of being one of the most militarized areas in the world, with nearly one Turkish soldier for every two Turkish Cypriot.

A devastating consequence of the Turkish invasion of Cyprus is the tragic humanitarian problem of missing persons. Today, there are more than 1,400 Greek Cypriots still missing as well as four missing Americans. A series of UN Security Council and General Assembly resolutions condemn Turkey's invasion and call for the tracing of missing persons. As we mark the 34th year of Turkey's invasion of Cyprus, I encourage all governments involved to

adhere to humanitarian principles and international practices regarding the effective investigation of the whereabouts of missing persons.

While we commemorate the past and our hearts go out to those suffering continuing hardship due to missing loved ones. Positive steps underway could lead to a brighter future for all Cypriots. We are encouraged that, for the first time in five years, both sides are engaging in constructive dialogue. Since March, leaders from the South and North have taken positive steps towards reunification and have met three times. I urge both sides to continue this positive discourse including at a meeting this Friday. I sincerely hope a solution to the Cyprus issue will soon be reached to reuniting the island under a government that safeguards human rights, completes the investigation into the whereabouts of missing persons, and respects the fundamental freedoms of the people as a whole.

TRIBUTE TO ROGER TORY PETERSON

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 22, 2008

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the legacy of Roger Tory Peterson (1908–1996) and the centennial celebration that will be held at the Roger Tory Peterson Institute in Jamestown, NY from August 2008–August 2009.

Roger Tory Peterson was America's most prominent ornithologist and bird artist in the 20th century. Many people have regarded him as being a modern day John James Audubon who introduced millions of people to the joys of bird watching.

Not only was Peterson a world renowned ornithologist, but also photographer, film maker, writer and lecturer as well. Additionally to his credit, his Field Guide to the Birds has sold five million copies in five editions since 1934, and was selected by the New York Public Library as one of the 100 most important books of the 20th century. This book was so successful that it led to an entire series of Peterson Field Guides to be developed. Peterson released 50 titles covering practically every aspect of the natural world. This launched a career that made him the most prominent and honored naturalist of our time.

For 60 years Peterson wrote and spoke about, illustrated, filmed and photographed the natural world. His articles, photographs and illustrations appeared not only in widely known magazines such as Life and National Geographic but also in a variety of other popular magazines. This allowed the public to become aware and appreciate nature through his work.

Peterson worked tirelessly in defense of the natural world. He was very outspoken and as a result he helped see through the passage of crucial environmental legislation such as the National Environmental Policy Act and the ban on DDT. He was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1980 and was twice nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize, received 23 Honorary Doctorates and scores of other honors including the John Burroughs Award for Nature Writing, the Conservation Medal of the National Audubon Society, Conservation

Achievement Award of the National Wildlife Federation, the Smithsonian Institution's James Smithson Medal, World Wildlife Fund Gold Medal, Linnaeus Gold Medal from the Swedish Academy of Sciences, and was inducted into the United States Conservation Hall of Fame, all for his work on behalf of the natural world.

Founded in 1985, the Roger Tory Peterson Institute of Natural History, located in Peterson's hometown of Jamestown, NY is an educational institution charged with preserving Peterson's lifetime body of work and making it available to the world for educational purposes. Housed in its archives are thousands of items ranging from paintings, original graphic art renderings, photographs, films, manuscripts and correspondence that tell the story of Peterson's career.

The Roger Tory Peterson Institute plays host to visitors from around the world that come to view these treasures. Yet, because Peterson educated, entertained and enriched the lives of people everywhere, these deserve greater and more widespread exposure through exhibition at museums and the other cultural venues nationwide.

Madam Speaker, I ask you to join me in recognizing the enduring Peterson who continues to enable millions of people to come to know and appreciate the value of nature and recognize the wellbeing of people and the natural world are one and the same. This deep, profound legacy deserves to be celebrated on the 100th anniversary of his birth, and is the reason why it is appropriate and necessary to celebrate Peterson's lifework and legacy.

THE DAILY 45: YOUNG ALONZO ROBERTSON DIES ON VACATION IN D.C.

HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 22, 2008

Mr. RUSH. Madam Speaker, the Department of Justice tells us that, every day, 45 people, on average, are fatally shot in the United States. Chicago is but one of several American cities that are struggling through an escalating wave of gun-related violence this summer.

Last weekend, in a scene reminiscent of a military checkpoint in Iraq, police had to cordon off the streets of the Trinidad section of Washington, D.C. This was in response to a series of shootings and stabbings that left at least 11 people wounded and two people dead. Among the gunshot victims was 13-year-old Alonzo Robertson, a young boy who was vacationing with family and friends when he was murdered.

As police continue to investigate Alonzo's senseless death, I not only grieve this child's loss but I mourn the violation of a sense of community of the people who live in the Trinidad neighborhood. Just last month, area residents had to wade through a police checkpoint that, for a brief time, stopped the violence.

Americans of conscience must come together to stop the senseless death of "The Daily 45." When will we say 'enough is enough, stop the killing!'

TRIBUTE TO TOMMIE ANN GIBNEY

HON. PHIL ENGLISH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 22, 2008

Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the accomplishments of a fine outstanding citizen, Tommie Ann Gibney.

Ms. Gibney is a shining example of a woman who tries hard and succeeds brilliantly. She does it all. She is a professional, a distinguished attorney, friend of many, wife, mother, and last month Ms. Gibney was able to add the title of President. She is one of only three women to ever hold the prestigious position as President of the Association of Trial Lawyers of America/New Jersey, an organization of over 2100 attorneys, paralegals, law clerks and law school graduates who protect New Jersey families by advocating for safer products and workplaces, a cleaner environment, and quality health care.

Ms. Gibney attended Seton Hall University for her undergraduate, graduate and law school degrees. As an associate at Andres and Berger in Haddonfield, New Jersey Ms. Gibney fights tirelessly for victims of nursing home abuse and neglect. She volunteers her services and vast legal knowledge to Trial Lawyers Care, 9/11 Legal Assistance and to the Hyacinth Aids Foundation. She is a role model for all law professionals both in and outside of the courtroom.

My congratulations to Tommie Ann Gibney and her family.

RECOGNIZING THE 34TH ANNIVERSARY OF TURKEY'S ILLEGAL INVASION OF CYPRUS

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 22, 2008

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, tonight I join my colleagues on the House floor to commemorate the 34th anniversary of Turkey's illegal occupation of Cyprus.

On July 20th 1974, Turkey began its brutal invasion of Cyprus, which forced nearly 200,000 Greek Cypriots to flee their homes—making one-third of the Cypriot population refugees in their own country.

Today, Turkey occupies the northern third of the island. It is one of the most militarized areas in the world, with more than 43,000 Turkish soldiers trying to maintain the status quo of the illegal occupation. Forty-three thousand soldiers may not sound like a lot, but consider that there is almost one Turkish soldier for every two Turkish Cypriots.

When Cypriots were forced to flee their homes 34 years ago, a large number of their properties were unlawfully distributed to tens of thousands of illegal settlers from Turkey. Today, 34 years later, Greek Cypriots, who continue to own these properties, are prevented by Turkey from returning and enjoying their homes and properties. Included amongst

this number are approximately 5,000 Cypriot-Americans who own property in the occupied area but who have no legal recourse.

This is an outrage. Since Cypriot-Americans cannot return to their illegally-seized property, I believe they should be allowed to seek financial remedies with either the current inhabitants of their land or the Turkish government itself.

Last year, I introduced the bipartisan American Owned Property in Occupied Cyprus Claims Act. Through this legislation, Americans who are being denied access to their property and even their ancestral homes will finally be able to seek restitution.

Specifically, it authorizes the president to initiate a claims program under which the claims of U.S. nationals who Turkey has excluded from their property can be judged before the Foreign Claims Settlement Commission. If this commission determined that Cypriot-Americans should be compensated for their property, negotiations would then take place between the U.S. and Turkey to determine the proper compensation.

My legislation would also empower U.S. district court to hear causes of action against either the individuals who now occupy those properties or the Turkish government.

The U.S. Government must not idly stand by and refuse 5,000 of its citizens any legal recourse to address the grave injustices committed by the Turkish government. For 34 years, these Americans have been separated from their homes and their businesses. It is time Congress vindicate the property rights of U.S. citizens in Cyprus.

While we commemorate the 34th anniversary of this illegal occupation, it is also important to recognize the progress that is being made on the island and some encouraging signs that we all hope lead to a united Cyprus one day soon.

Working Groups and Technical Committees have been set up by Cypriot President Christofias and Turkish Cypriot leader Talat to build the framework for possible substantive negotiations between the two leaders down the line.

The two leaders have also met—once in May and then again at the beginning of this month—to discuss the progress that the Groups and Committees are making. They will also meet this Friday to conduct a final review of the work that has been completed to date.

Another hopeful sign is the integration that continues to take place between Greek-Cypriots and Turkish-Cypriots as a result of the nearly 13 million crossings along the cease fire line that have occurred over the last five years. Over the last three years, Turkish Cypriot incomes have more than doubled, and more than 60,000 Turkish Cypriots have received Cypriot passports, which will allow them to travel freely in any E-U country.

Madam Speaker, as we commemorate the 34th Anniversary of Turkey's illegal invasion and occupation of Cyprus, we are hopeful that these recent developments will finally produce something all Cypriots have waited 34 years to see—a united Cyprus.